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(54) Title: POLYNUCLEOTIDES ISOLATED FROM SKIN CELLS AND METHODS FOR THEIR USE		
(57) Abstract		
<p>Isolated polynucleotides encoding polypeptides expressed in mammalian skin cells are provided, together with expression vectors and host cells comprising such isolated polynucleotides. Methods for the use of such polynucleotides and polypeptides are also provided.</p>		

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POLYNUCLEOTIDES ISOLATED FROM SKIN CELLS AND METHODS FOR THEIR USE

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Technical Field of the Invention

This invention relates to polynucleotides encoding polypeptides, polypeptides expressed in skin cells, and their use in therapeutic methods.

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Background of the Invention

The skin is the largest organ in the body and serves as a protective cover. The loss of skin, as occurs in a badly burned person, may lead to death owing to the absence of a barrier against infection by external microbial organisms, as well as loss of body temperature and body fluids.

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Skin tissue is composed of several layers. The outermost layer is the epidermis which is supported by a basement membrane and overlies the dermis. Beneath the dermis is loose connective tissue and fascia which cover muscles or bony tissue. The skin is a self-renewing tissue in that cells are constantly being formed and shed. The deepest cells of the epidermis are the basal cells, which are enriched in cells capable of replication. Such replicating cells are called progenitor or stem cells. Replicating cells in turn give rise to daughter cells called 'transit amplifying cells'. These cells undergo differentiation and maturation into keratinocytes (mature skin cells) as they move from the basal layer to the more superficial layers of the epidermis. In the process, keratinocytes become cornified and are ultimately shed from the skin surface. Other cells in the epidermis include melanocytes which synthesize melanin, the pigment responsible for protection against sunlight. The Langerhans cell also resides in the epidermis and functions as a cell which processes foreign proteins for presentation to the immune system.

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The dermis contains nerves, blood and lymphatic vessels, fibrous and fatty tissue. Within the dermis are fibroblasts, macrophages and mast cells. Both the epidermis and dermis are penetrated by sweat, or sebaceous, glands and hair follicles. Each strand of

hair is derived from a hair follicle. When hair is plucked out, the hair re-grows from epithelial cells directed by the dermal papillae of the hair follicle.

When the skin surface is breached, for example in a wound, the stem cells proliferate and daughter keratinocytes migrate across the wound to reseal the tissues. The skin cells therefore possess genes activated in response to trauma. The products of these genes include several growth factors, such as epidermal growth factor, which mediate the proliferation of skin cells. The genes that are activated in the skin, and the protein products of such genes, may be developed as agents for the treatment of skin wounds. Additional growth factors derived from skin cells may also influence growth of other cell types. As skin cancers are a disorder of the growth of skin cells, proteins derived from skin that regulate cellular growth may be developed as agents for the treatment of skin cancers. Skin derived proteins that regulate the production of melanin may be useful as agents which protect skin against unwanted effects of sunlight.

Keratinocytes are known to secrete cytokines and express various cell surface proteins. Cytokines and cell surface molecules are proteins which play an important role in the inflammatory response against infection and also in autoimmune diseases affecting the skin. Genes and their protein products that are expressed by skin cells may thus be developed into agents for the treatment of inflammatory disorders affecting the skin.

Hair is an important part of a person's individuality. Disorders of the skin may lead to hair loss. Alopecia areata is a disease characterized by the patchy loss of hair over the scalp. Total baldness is a side effect of drug treatment for cancer. The growth and development of hair are mediated by the effects of genes expressed in skin and dermal papillae. Such genes and their protein products may be usefully developed into agents for the treatment of disorders of the hair follicle.

New treatments are required to hasten the healing of skin wounds, to prevent the loss of hair, enhance the re-growth of hair or removal of hair, and to treat autoimmune and inflammatory skin diseases more effectively and without adverse effects. More effective treatments of skin cancers are also required. There thus remains a need in the art for the identification and isolation of genes encoding proteins expressed in the skin, for use in the development of therapeutic agents for the treatment of disorders including those associated with skin.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides polypeptides expressed in skin cells, together with polynucleotides encoding such polypeptides, expression vectors and host cells comprising such polynucleotides, and methods for their use.

In specific embodiments, isolated polynucleotides are provided that comprise a DNA sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-14, 45-48, 64-68, 77-89, 118, 119, 198-231, 239-249, 254-274, 349-372 and 399-405; (b) complements of the sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-14, 45-48, 64-68, 77-89, 118, 119, 198-231, 239-249, 254-274, 349-372 and 399-405; (c) reverse complements of the sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-14, 45-48, 64-68, 77-89, 118, 119, 198-231, 239-249, 254-274, 349-372 and 399-405; (d) reverse sequences of the sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-14, 45-48, 64-68, 77-89, 118, 119, 198-231, 239-249, 254-274, 349-372 and 399-405; (e) sequences having a 99% probability of being the same as a sequence of (a)-(d); and (f) sequences having at least 50%, 75% or 90% identity to a sequence of (a)-(d).

In further embodiments, the present invention provides isolated polypeptides comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398 and 406-409; and (b) sequences having at least 50%, 75% or 90% identity to a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398 and 406-409, together with isolated polynucleotides encoding such polypeptides. Isolated polypeptides which comprise at least a functional portion of a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398 and 406-409; and (b) sequences having 50%, 75% or 90% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398 and 406-409 are also provided.

In related embodiments, the present invention provides expression vectors comprising the above polynucleotides, together with host cells transformed with such vectors.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of stimulating keratinocyte growth and motility, inhibiting the growth of epithelial-derived cancer cells,

inhibiting angiogenesis and vascularization of tumors, or modulating the growth of blood vessels in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 342, 343, 395, 397, and 398; and (b) sequences having at least 50%, 75% or 90% identity to a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 342, 343, 395, 397, and 398.

Methods for modulating skin inflammation in a subject are also provided, the methods comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 338 and 347; and (b) sequences having at least 50%, 75% or 90% identity to a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 338 and 347. In an additional aspect, the present invention provides methods for stimulating the growth of epithelial cells in a subject. Such methods comprise administering to the subject a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide including an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 129 and 348; and (b) sequences having at least 50%, 75% or 90% identity to a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 129 and 348. In yet a further aspect, methods for inhibiting the binding of HIV-1 to leukocytes, for the treatment of an inflammatory disease or for the treatment of cancer in a subject are provided, the methods comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide including an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 340, 344, 345 and 346; and (b) sequences having at least 50%, 75% or 90% identity to a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 340, 344, 345 and 346.

As detailed below, the isolated polynucleotides and polypeptides of the present invention may be usefully employed in the preparation of therapeutic agents for the treatment of skin disorders.

The above-mentioned and additional features of the present invention, together with the manner of obtaining them, will be best understood by reference to the following more detailed description. All references disclosed herein are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety as if each was incorporated individually.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 shows the results of a Northern analysis of the distribution of huTR1 mRNA in human tissues. Key: He, Heart; Br, Brain; Pl, Placenta; Lu, Lung; Li, Liver; SM, Skeletal muscle; Ki, Kidney; Sp, Spleen; Th, Thymus; Pr, Prostate; Ov, Ovary.

Fig. 2 shows the results of a MAP kinase assay of muTR1a and huTR1a. MuTR1a (500ng/ml), huTR1a (100ng/ml) or LPS (3pg/ml) were added as described in the text.

Fig. 3 shows the stimulation of growth of neonatal foreskin keratinocytes by muTR1a.

Fig. 4 shows the stimulation of growth of the transformed human keratinocyte cell line HaCaT by muTR1a and huTR1a.

Fig. 5 shows the inhibition of growth of the human epidermal carcinoma cell line A431 by muTR1a and huTR1a.

Fig. 6 shows the inhibition of IL-2 induced growth of concanavalin A-stimulated murine splenocytes by KS2a.

Fig. 7 shows the stimulation of growth of rat intestinal epithelial cells (IEC-18) by a combination of KS3a plus apo-transferrin.

Fig. 8 illustrates the oxidative burst effect of TR-1 (100 ng/ml), muKS1 (100 ng/ml), SDF1 α (100 ng/ml), and fMLP (10 μ M) on human PBMC.

Figure 9 shows the chemotactic effect of muKS1 and SDF-1 α on THP-1 cells.

Figure 10 shows the induction of cellular infiltrate in C3H/HeJ mice after intraperitoneal injections with muKS1 (50 μ g), GV14B (50 μ g) and PBS.

Figure 11 demonstrates the induction of phosphorylation of ERK1 and ERK2 in CV1/EBNA and HeLa cell lines by huTR1a.

Figure 12 shows the huTR1 mRNA expression in HeLa cells after stimulation by muTR1, huTR1, huTGF α and PBS (100 ng/ml each).

Figure 13 shows activation of the SRE by muTR1a in PC-12 (Fig. 13a) and HaCaT (Fig. 13b) cells.

Figure 14 shows the inhibition of huTR1a mediated growth on HaCaT cells by an antibody to the EGF receptor.

Detailed Description of the Invention

In one aspect, the present invention provides polynucleotides that were isolated from mammalian skin cells. As used herein, the term "polynucleotide" means a single or double-stranded polymer of deoxyribonucleotide or ribonucleotide bases and includes DNA and RNA molecules, both sense and anti-sense strands. The term comprehends cDNA, genomic DNA, recombinant DNA and wholly or partially synthesized nucleic acid molecules. A polynucleotide may consist of an entire gene, or a portion thereof. A gene is a DNA sequence that codes for a functional protein or RNA molecule. Operable anti-sense polynucleotides may comprise a fragment of the corresponding polynucleotide, and the definition of "polynucleotide" therefore includes all operable anti-sense fragments. Anti-sense polynucleotides and techniques involving anti-sense polynucleotides are well known in the art and are described, for example, in Robinson-Benion et al., "Anti-sense Techniques," *Methods in Enzymol.* 254(23):363-375, 1995; and Kawasaki et al., *Artific. Organs* 20 (8):836-848, 1996.

Identification of genomic DNA and heterologous species DNAs can be accomplished by standard DNA/DNA hybridization techniques, under appropriately stringent conditions, using all or part of a cDNA sequence as a probe to screen an appropriate library. Alternatively, PCR techniques using oligonucleotide primers that are designed based on known genomic DNA, cDNA and protein sequences can be used to amplify and identify genomic and cDNA sequences. Synthetic DNAs corresponding to the identified sequences and variants may be produced by conventional synthesis methods. All the polynucleotides provided by the present invention are isolated and purified, as those terms are commonly used in the art.

In specific embodiments, the polynucleotides of the present invention comprise a DNA sequence selected from the group consisting of sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372 and 399-405, and variants of the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372 and 399-405. Polynucleotides that comprise complements of such DNA sequences, reverse complements of such DNA sequences, or reverse

sequences of such DNA sequences, together with variants of such sequences, are also provided.

The definition of the terms "complement," "reverse complement," and "reverse sequence," as used herein, is best illustrated by the following example. For the sequence
5 5' AGGACC 3', the complement, reverse complement, and reverse sequence are as follows:

complement	3' TCCTGG 5'
reverse complement	3' GGTCCT 5'
reverse sequence	5' CCAGGA 3'.

10 In another aspect, the present invention provides isolated polypeptides encoded, or partially encoded, by the above polynucleotides. As used herein, the term "polypeptide" encompasses amino acid chains of any length, including full length proteins, wherein the amino acid residues are linked by covalent peptide bonds. The term "polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide" as used herein, includes polypeptides
15 encoded by a polynucleotide which comprises a partial isolated DNA sequence provided herein. In specific embodiments, the inventive polypeptides comprise an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398 and 406-409, as well as variants of such sequences.

Polypeptides of the present invention may be produced recombinantly by
20 inserting a DNA sequence that encodes the polypeptide into an expression vector and expressing the polypeptide in an appropriate host. Any of a variety of expression vectors known to those of ordinary skill in the art may be employed. Expression may be achieved in any appropriate host cell that has been transformed or transfected with an expression vector containing a DNA molecule that encodes a recombinant polypeptide.
25 Suitable host cells include prokaryotes, yeast, and higher eukaryotic cells. Preferably, the host cells employed are *E. coli*, insect, yeast, or a mammalian cell line such as COS or CHO. The DNA sequences expressed in this manner may encode naturally occurring polypeptides, portions of naturally occurring polypeptides, or other variants thereof.

In a related aspect, polypeptides are provided that comprise at least a functional
30 portion of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, 406-409,

and variants thereof. As used herein, the "functional portion" of a polypeptide is that portion which contains the active site essential for affecting the function of the polypeptide, for example, the portion of the molecule that is capable of binding one or more reactants. The active site may be made up of separate portions present on one or more polypeptide chains and will generally exhibit high binding affinity.

Functional portions of a polypeptide may be identified by first preparing fragments of the polypeptide by either chemical or enzymatic digestion of the polypeptide, or by mutation analysis of the polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide and subsequent expression of the resulting mutant polypeptides. The polypeptide fragments or mutant polypeptides are then tested to determine which portions retain biological activity, using, for example, the representative assays provided below.

Portions and other variants of the inventive polypeptides may also be generated by synthetic or recombinant means. Synthetic polypeptides having fewer than about 100 amino acids, and generally fewer than about 50 amino acids, may be generated using techniques well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, such polypeptides may be synthesized using any of the commercially available solid-phase techniques, such as the Merrifield solid-phase synthesis method, where amino acids are sequentially added to a growing amino acid chain. See Merrifield, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 85:2149-2146, 1963. Equipment for automated synthesis of polypeptides is commercially available from suppliers such as Perkin Elmer/Applied BioSystems, Inc. (Foster City, California), and may be operated according to the manufacturer's instructions. Variants of a native polypeptide may be prepared using standard mutagenesis techniques, such as oligonucleotide-directed site-specific mutagenesis (Kunkel, T., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 82:488-492, 1985). Sections of DNA sequence may also be removed using standard techniques to permit preparation of truncated polypeptides.

In general, the polypeptides disclosed herein are prepared in an isolated, substantially pure, form. Preferably, the polypeptides are at least about 80% pure, more preferably at least about 90% pure, and most preferably at least about 99% pure. In certain preferred embodiments, described in detail below, the isolated polypeptides are

incorporated into pharmaceutical compositions or vaccines for use in the treatment of skin disorders.

As used herein, the term "variant" comprehends nucleotide or amino acid sequences different from the specifically identified sequences, wherein one or more nucleotides or amino acid residues is deleted, substituted, or added. Variants may be naturally occurring allelic variants, or non-naturally occurring variants. Variant sequences (polynucleotide or polypeptide) preferably exhibit at least 50%, more preferably at least 75%, and most preferably at least 90% identity to a sequence of the present invention. The percentage identity is determined by aligning the two sequences to be compared as described below, determining the number of identical residues in the aligned portion, dividing that number by the total number of residues in the inventive (queried) sequence, and multiplying the result by 100.

Polynucleotide or polypeptide sequences may be aligned, and percentage of identical nucleotides in a specified region may be determined against another polynucleotide or polypeptide, using computer algorithms that are publicly available. Two exemplary algorithms for aligning and identifying the similarity of polynucleotide sequences are the BLASTN and FASTA algorithms. The alignment and similarity of polypeptide sequences may be examined using the BLASTP and algorithm. BLASTX and FASTX algorithms compare nucleotide query sequences translated in all reading frames against polypeptide sequences. The BLASTN, BLASTP and BLASTX algorithms are available on the NCBI anonymous FTP server (<ftp://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>) under /blast/executables/. The FASTA and FASTX algorithms are available on the Internet at the ftp site <ftp://ftp.virginia.edu/pub/>. The FASTA algorithm, set to the default parameters described in the documentation and distributed with the algorithm, may be used in the determination of polynucleotide variants. The readme files for FASTA and FASTX v1.0x that are distributed with the algorithms describe the use of the algorithms and describe the default parameters. The use of the FASTA and FASTX algorithms is also described in Pearson, WR and Lipman, DJ, "Improved Tools for Biological Sequence Analysis," *PNAS* 85:2444-2448, 1988; and Pearson WR, "Rapid and Sensitive Sequence Comparison with FASTP and FASTA," *Methods in Enzymology* 183:63-98, 1990.

The BLASTN algorithm version 2.0.4 [Feb-24-1998], set to the default parameters described in the documentation and distributed with the algorithm, is preferred for use in the determination of polynucleotide variants according to the present invention. The BLASTP algorithm version 2.0.4, set to the default parameters described in the documentation and distributed with the algorithm, is preferred for use in the determination of polypeptide variants according to the present invention. The use of the BLAST family of algorithms, including BLASTN, BLASTP and BLASTX is described at NCBI's website at URL <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/newblast.html> and in the publication of Altschul, Stephen F., *et al.*, "Gapped BLAST and PSI-BLAST: a new generation of protein database search programs," *Nucleic Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402, 1997.

The following running parameters are preferred for determination of alignments and similarities using BLASTN that contribute to the E values and percentage identity for polynucleotides: Unix running command with default parameters thus: `blastall -p blastn -d embldb -e 10 -G 0 -E 0 -r 1 -v 30 -b 30 -i queryseq -o results`; and parameters are: -p Program Name [String]; -d Database [String]; -e Expectation value (E) [Real]; -G Cost to open a gap (zero invokes default behavior) [Integer]; -E Cost to extend a gap (zero invokes default behavior) [Integer]; -r Reward for a nucleotide match (blastn only) [Integer]; -v Number of one-line descriptions (V) [Integer]; -b Number of alignments to show (B) [Integer]; -i Query File [File In]; -o BLAST report Output File [File Out]

Optional. The following running parameters are preferred for determination of alignments and similarities using BLASTP that contribute to the E values and percentage identity for polypeptides: `blastall -p blastp -d swissprot -e 10 -G 1 -E 11 -r 1 -v 30 -b 30 -i queryseq -o results`; and the parameters are: -p Program Name [String]; -d Database [String]; -e Expectation value (E) [Real]; -G Cost to open a gap (zero invokes default behavior) [Integer]; -E Cost to extend a gap (zero invokes default behavior) [Integer]; -v Number of one-line descriptions (v) [Integer]; -b Number of alignments to show (b) [Integer]; -I Query File [File In]; -o BLAST report Output File [File Out]

Optional.

The "hits" to one or more database sequences by a queried sequence produced by BLASTN, BLASTP, FASTA, or a similar algorithm, align and identify similar portions of sequences. The hits are arranged in order of the degree of similarity and the length of

sequence overlap. Hits to a database sequence generally represent an overlap over only a fraction of the sequence length of the queried sequence.

The percentage similarity of a polynucleotide or polypeptide sequence is determined by aligning polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences using appropriate algorithms, such as BLASTN or BLASTP, respectively, set to default parameters; identifying the number of identical nucleic or amino acids over the aligned portions; dividing the number of identical nucleic or amino acids by the total number of nucleic or amino acids of the polynucleotide or polypeptide of the present invention; and then multiplying by 100 to determine the percentage similarity. By way of example, a queried polynucleotide having 220 nucleic acids has a hit to a polynucleotide sequence in the EMBL database having 520 nucleic acids over a stretch of 23 nucleotides in the alignment produced by the BLASTN algorithm using the default parameters. The 23 nucleotide hit includes 21 identical nucleotides, one gap and one different nucleotide. The percentage identity of the queried polynucleotide to the hit in the EMBL database is thus 21/220 times 100, or 9.5%. The similarity of polypeptide sequences may be determined in a similar fashion.

The BLASTN and BLASTX algorithms also produce "Expect" values for polynucleotide and polypeptide alignments. The Expect value (E) indicates the number of hits one can "expect" to see over a certain number of contiguous sequences by chance when searching a database of a certain size. The Expect value is used as a significance threshold for determining whether the hit to a database indicates true similarity. For example, an E value of 0.1 assigned to a polynucleotide hit is interpreted as meaning that in a database of the size of the EMBL database, one might expect to see 0.1 matches over the aligned portion of the sequence with a similar score simply by chance. By this criterion, the aligned and matched portions of the sequences then have a probability of 90% of being the same. For sequences having an E value of 0.01 or less over aligned and matched portions, the probability of finding a match by chance in the EMBL database is 1% or less using the BLASTN algorithm. E values for polypeptide sequences may be determined in a similar fashion using various polypeptide databases, such as the SwissProt database.

According to one embodiment, "variant" polynucleotides and polypeptides, with reference to each of the polynucleotides and polypeptides of the present invention, preferably comprise sequences having the same number or fewer nucleic or amino acids than each of the polynucleotides or polypeptides of the present invention and producing an E value of 0.01 or less when compared to the polynucleotide or polypeptide of the present invention. That is, a variant polynucleotide or polypeptide is any sequence that has at least a 99% probability of being the same as the polynucleotide or polypeptide of the present invention, measured as having an E value of 0.01 or less using the BLASTN or BLASTX algorithms set at the default parameters. According to a preferred embodiment, a variant polynucleotide is a sequence having the same number or fewer nucleic acids than a polynucleotide of the present invention that has at least a 99% probability of being the same as the polynucleotide of the present invention, measured as having an E value of 0.01 or less using the BLASTN algorithm set at the default parameters. Similarly, according to a preferred embodiment, a variant polypeptide is a sequence having the same number or fewer amino acids than a polypeptide of the present invention that has at least a 99% probability of being the same as the polypeptide of the present invention, measured as having an E value of 0.01 or less using the BLASTP algorithm set at the default parameters.

Variant polynucleotide sequences will generally hybridize to the recited polynucleotide sequences under stringent conditions. As used herein, "stringent conditions" refers to prewashing in a solution of 6X SSC, 0.2% SDS; hybridizing at 65°C, 6X SSC, 0.2% SDS overnight; followed by two washes of 30 minutes each in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65 °C and two washes of 30 minutes each in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65 °C.

As used herein, the term "x-mer," with reference to a specific value of "x," refers to a polynucleotide or polypeptide, respectively, comprising at least a specified number ("x") of contiguous residues of: any of the polynucleotides provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372 and 399-405; or any of the polypeptides set out in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398 and 406-409. The value of x may be from about 20 to about 600, depending upon the specific sequence.

Polynucleotides of the present invention comprehend polynucleotides comprising at least a specified number of contiguous residues (x-mers) of any of the polynucleotides identified as SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372 and 399-405, or their variants. Polypeptides of the present invention comprehend polypeptides comprising at least a specified number of contiguous residues (x-mers) of any of the polypeptides identified as SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, and 406-409. According to preferred embodiments, the value of x is at least 20, more preferably at least 40, more preferably yet at least 60, and most preferably at least 80. Thus, polynucleotides of the present invention include polynucleotides comprising a 20-mer, a 40-mer, a 60-mer, an 80-mer, a 100-mer, a 120-mer, a 150-mer, a 180-mer, a 220-mer, a 250-mer; or a 300-mer, 400-mer, 500-mer or 600-mer of a polynucleotide provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372 and 399-405 or a variant of one of the polynucleotides provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372, and 399-405. Polypeptides of the present invention include polypeptides comprising a 20-mer, a 40-mer, a 60-mer, an 80-mer, a 100-mer, a 120-mer, a 150-mer, a 180-mer, a 220-mer, a 250-mer; or a 300-mer, 400-mer, 500-mer or 600-mer of a polypeptide provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, and 406-409, or a variant of one of the polynucleotides provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, and 406-409.

The inventive polynucleotides may be isolated by high throughput sequencing of cDNA libraries prepared from mammalian skin cells as described below in Example 1. Alternatively, oligonucleotide probes based on the sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372, and 399-405 can be synthesized and used to identify positive clones in either cDNA or genomic DNA libraries from mammalian skin cells by means of hybridization or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques. Probes can be shorter than the sequences provided herein but should be at least about 10, preferably at least about 15 and most preferably at least about 20 nucleotides in length. Hybridization and PCR techniques suitable for use with such oligonucleotide probes are well known in the art (see, for example, Mullis, *et al.*, *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.*, 51:263, 1987; Erlich, ed., *PCR Technology*, Stockton Press: NY, 1989; (Sambrook, J, Fritsch, EF and Maniatis, T, eds., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd ed., Cold Spring

Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor: New York, 1989). Positive clones may be analyzed by restriction enzyme digestion, DNA sequencing or the like.

In addition, DNA sequences of the present invention may be generated by synthetic means using techniques well known in the art. Equipment for automated
5 synthesis of oligonucleotides is commercially available from suppliers such as Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems Division (Foster City, California) and may be operated according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Since the polynucleotide sequences of the present invention have been derived from skin, they likely encode proteins that have important roles in growth and
10 development of skin, and in responses of skin to tissue injury and inflammation as well as disease states. Some of the polynucleotides contain sequences that code for signal sequences, or transmembrane domains, which identify the protein products as secreted molecules or receptors. Such protein products are likely to be growth factors, cytokines, or their cognate receptors. Several of the polypeptide sequences have more than 25%
15 similarity to known biologically important proteins and thus are likely to represent proteins having similar biological functions.

In particular, the inventive polypeptides have important roles in processes such as: induction of hair growth; differentiation of skin stem cells into specialized cell types; cell migration; cell proliferation and cell-cell interaction. The polypeptides are important in
20 the maintenance of tissue integrity, and thus are important in processes such as wound healing. Some of the disclosed polypeptides act as modulators of immune responses, especially since immune cells are known to infiltrate skin during tissue insult causing growth and differentiation of skin cells. In addition, many polypeptides are immunologically active, making them important therapeutic targets in a whole range of
25 disease states not only within skin, but also in other tissues of the body. Antibodies to the polypeptides of the present invention and small molecule inhibitors related to the polypeptides of the present invention may also be used for modulating immune responses and for treatment of diseases according to the present invention.

In one aspect, the present invention provides methods for using one or more of the
30 inventive polypeptides or polynucleotides to treat disorders in a patient. As used herein, a "patient" refers to any warm-blooded animal, preferably a human.

In this aspect, the polypeptide or polynucleotide is generally present within a pharmaceutical composition or a vaccine. Pharmaceutical compositions may comprise one or more polypeptides, each of which may contain one or more of the above sequences (or variants thereof), and a physiologically acceptable carrier. Vaccines may
5 comprise one or more of the above polypeptides and a non-specific immune response amplifier, such as an adjuvant or a liposome, into which the polypeptide is incorporated.

Alternatively, a vaccine or pharmaceutical composition of the present invention may contain DNA encoding one or more polypeptides as described above, such that the polypeptide is generated *in situ*. In such vaccines and pharmaceutical compositions, the
10 DNA may be present within any of a variety of delivery systems known to those of ordinary skill in the art, including nucleic acid expression systems, and bacterial and viral expression systems. Appropriate nucleic acid expression systems contain the necessary DNA sequences for expression in the patient (such as a suitable promoter and terminator signal). Bacterial delivery systems involve the administration of a bacterium (such as
15 *Bacillus-Calmette-Guerin*) that expresses an immunogenic portion of the polypeptide on its cell surface. In a preferred embodiment, the DNA may be introduced using a viral expression system (*e.g.*, vaccinia or other poxvirus, retrovirus, or adenovirus), which may involve the use of a non-pathogenic, or defective, replication competent virus. Techniques for incorporating DNA into such expression systems are well known in the
20 art. The DNA may also be "naked," as described, for example, in Ulmer, *et al.*, *Science* 259:1745-1749, 1993 and reviewed by Cohen, *Science* 259:1691-1692, 1993. The uptake of naked DNA may be increased by coating the DNA onto biodegradable beads, which are efficiently transported into the cells.

Routes and frequency of administration, as well as dosage, will vary from
25 individual to individual. In general, the pharmaceutical compositions and vaccines may be administered by injection (*e.g.*, intradermal, intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous), intranasally (*e.g.*, by aspiration) or orally. In general, the amount of polypeptide present in a dose (or produced *in situ* by the DNA in a dose) ranges from about 1 pg to about 100 mg per kg of host, typically from about 10 pg to about 1 mg per
30 kg of host, and preferably from about 100 pg to about 1 µg per kg of host. Suitable dose

sizes will vary with the size of the patient, but will typically range from about 0.1 ml to about 5 ml.

While any suitable carrier known to those of ordinary skill in the art may be employed in the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention, the type of carrier will vary depending on the mode of administration. For parenteral administration, such as subcutaneous injection, the carrier preferably comprises water, saline, alcohol, a lipid, a wax, or a buffer. For oral administration, any of the above carriers or a solid carrier, such as mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, talcum, cellulose, glucose, sucrose, and magnesium carbonate, may be employed. Biodegradable microspheres (*e.g.*, polylactic galactide) may also be employed as carriers for the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention. Suitable biodegradable microspheres are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,897,268 and 5,075,109.

Any of a variety of adjuvants may be employed in the vaccines derived from this invention to non-specifically enhance the immune response. Most adjuvants contain a substance designed to protect the antigen from rapid catabolism, such as aluminum hydroxide or mineral oil, and a non-specific stimulator of immune responses, such as lipid A, *Bordetella pertussis*, or *M. tuberculosis*. Suitable adjuvants are commercially available as, for example, Freund's Incomplete Adjuvant and Freund's Complete Adjuvant (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, Michigan), and Merck Adjuvant 65 (Merck and Company, Inc., Rahway, New Jersey). Other suitable adjuvants include alum, biodegradable microspheres, monophosphoryl lipid A, and Quil A.

The polynucleotides of the present invention may also be used as markers for tissue, as chromosome markers or tags, in the identification of genetic disorders, and for the design of oligonucleotides for examination of expression patterns using techniques well known in the art, such as the microarray technology available from Synteni (Palo Alto, California). Partial polynucleotide sequences disclosed herein may be employed to obtain full length genes by, for example, screening of DNA expression libraries using hybridization probes or PCR primers based on the inventive sequences.

The polypeptides provided by the present invention may additionally be used in assays to determine biological activity, to raise antibodies, to isolate corresponding ligands or receptors, in assays to quantitatively determine levels of protein or cognate

corresponding ligand or receptor, as anti-inflammatory agents, and in compositions for skin, connective tissue and/or nerve tissue growth or regeneration.

Example 1

5 ISOLATION OF CDNA SEQUENCES FROM SKIN CELL EXPRESSION LIBRARIES

The cDNA sequences of the present invention were obtained by high-throughput sequencing of cDNA expression libraries constructed from specialized rodent or human skin cells as shown in Table 1.

10

Table 1

<u>Library</u>	<u>Skin cell type</u>	<u>Source</u>
DEPA	dermal papilla	rat
SKTC	keratinocytes	human
HNFF	neonatal foreskin fibroblast	human
15 MEMS	embryonic skin	mouse
KSCL	keratinocyte stem cell	mouse
<u>TRAM</u>	<u>transit amplifying cells</u>	<u>mouse</u>

These cDNA libraries were prepared as described below.

20 cDNA Library from Dermal Papilla (DEPA)

Dermal papilla cells from rat hair vibrissae (whiskers) were grown in culture and the total RNA extracted from these cells using established protocols. Total RNA, isolated using TRIzol Reagent (BRL Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Maryland), was used to obtain mRNA using a Poly(A) Quik mRNA isolation kit (Stratagene, La Jolla, California), according to the manufacturer's specifications. A cDNA expression library was then prepared from the mRNA by reverse transcriptase synthesis using a Lambda ZAP cDNA library synthesis kit (Stratagene).

cDNA Library from Keratinocytes (SKTC)

Keratinocytes obtained from human neonatal foreskins (Mitra, R and Nikoloff, B in *Handbook of Keratinocyte Methods*, pp. 17-24, 1994) were grown in serum-free KSFM (BRL Life Technologies) and harvested along with differentiated cells (10^8 cells). Keratinocytes were allowed to differentiate by addition of fetal calf serum at a final

concentration of 10% to the culture medium and cells were harvested after 48 hours. Total RNA was isolated from the two cell populations using TRIzol Reagent (BRL Life Technologies) and used to obtain mRNA using a Poly(A) Quik mRNA isolation kit (Stratagene). cDNAs expressed in differentiated keratinocytes were enriched by using a
5 PCR-Select cDNA Subtraction Kit (Clontech, Palo Alto, California). Briefly, mRNA was obtained from either undifferentiated keratinocytes ("driver mRNA") or differentiated keratinocytes ("tester mRNA") and used to synthesize cDNA. The two populations of cDNA were separately digested with *RsaI* to obtain shorter, blunt-ended molecules. Two tester populations were created by ligating different adaptors at the
10 cDNA ends and two successive rounds of hybridization were performed with an excess of driver cDNA. The adaptors allowed for PCR amplification of only the differentially expressed sequences which were then ligated into T-tailed pBluescript (Hadjeb, N and Berkowitz, GA, *BioTechniques* 20:20-22 1996), allowing for a blue/white selection of cells containing vector with inserts. White cells were isolated and used to obtain plasmid
15 DNA for sequencing.

cDNA library from human neonatal fibroblasts (HNFF)

Human neonatal fibroblast cells were grown in culture from explants of human neonatal foreskin and the total RNA extracted from these cells using established protocols. Total RNA, isolated using TRIzol Reagent (BRL Life Technologies,
20 Gaithersburg, Maryland), was used to obtain mRNA using a Poly(A) Quik mRNA isolation kit (Stratagene, La Jolla, California), according to the manufacturer's specifications. A cDNA expression library was then prepared from the mRNA by reverse transcriptase synthesis using a Lambda ZAP cDNA library synthesis kit (Stratagene).

cDNA library from mouse embryonic skin (MEMS)

25 Embryonic skin was micro-dissected from day 13 post coitum Balb/c mice. Embryonic skin was washed in phosphate buffered saline and mRNA directly isolated from the tissue using the Quick Prep Micro mRNA purification kit (Pharmacia, Sweden). The mRNA was then used to prepare cDNA libraries as described above for the DEPA library.

30 cDNA library from mouse stem cells (KSCL) and transit amplifying (TRAM) cells

Pelts obtained from 1-2 day post-partum neonatal Balb/c mice were washed and

incubated in trypsin (BRL Life Technologies) to separate the epidermis from the dermis. Epidermal tissue was disrupted to disperse cells, which were then resuspended in growth medium and centrifuged over Percoll density gradients prepared according to the manufacturer's protocol (Pharmacia, Sweden). Pelleted cells were labeled using
5 Rhodamine 123 (Bertoncello I, Hodgson GS and Bradley TR, *Exp Hematol.* 13:999-1006, 1985), and analyzed by flow cytometry (Epics Elite Coulter Cytometry, Hialeah, Florida). Single cell suspensions of rhodamine-labeled murine keratinocytes were then labeled with a cross reactive anti-rat CD29 biotin monoclonal antibody (Pharmingen, San Diego, California; clone Ha2/5). Cells were washed and incubated with anti-mouse
10 CD45 phycoerythrin conjugated monoclonal antibody (Pharmingen; clone 30F11.1, 10ug/ml) followed by labeling with streptavidin spectral red (Southern Biotechnology, Birmingham, Alabama). Sort gates were defined using listmode data to identify four populations: CD29 bright rhodamine dull CD45 negative cells; CD29 bright rhodamine bright CD45 negative cells; CD29 dull rhodamine bright CD45 negative cells; and CD29
15 dull rhodamine dull CD45 negative cells. Cells were sorted, pelleted and snap frozen prior to storage at -80°C. This protocol was followed multiple times to obtain sufficient cell numbers of each population to prepare cDNA libraries. Skin stem cells and transit amplifying cells are known to express CD29, the integrin $\beta 1$ chain. CD45, a leucocyte specific antigen, was used as a marker for cells to be excluded in the isolation of skin
20 stem cells and transit amplifying cells. Keratinocyte stem cells expel the rhodamine dye more efficiently than transit amplifying cells. The CD29 bright, rhodamine dull, CD45 negative population (putative keratinocyte stem cells; referred to as KSCL), and the CD29 bright, rhodamine bright, CD45 negative population (keratinocyte transit amplifying cells; referred to as TRAM) were sorted and mRNA was directly isolated
25 from each cell population using the Quick Prep Micro mRNA purification kit (Pharmacia, Sweden). The mRNA was then used to prepare cDNA libraries as described above for the DEPA library.

cDNA sequences were obtained by high-throughput sequencing of the cDNA libraries described above using a Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems Division Prism 377
30 sequencer.

Example 2

CHARACTERIZATION OF ISOLATED cDNA SEQUENCES

The isolated cDNA sequences were compared to sequences in the EMBL DNA database using the computer algorithms FASTA and/or BLASTN. The corresponding
5 predicted protein sequences (DNA translated to protein in each of 6 reading frames) were compared to sequences in the SwissProt database using the computer algorithms FASTX and/or BLASTP. Comparisons of DNA sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-119 to sequences in the EMBL DNA database (using FASTA) and amino acid sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197 to sequences in the SwissProt database (using FASTX)
10 were made as of March 21, 1998. Comparisons of DNA sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 198-274 to sequences in the EMBL DNA database (using BLASTN) and amino acid sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 275-348 to sequences in the SwissProt database (using BLASTP) were made as of October 7, 1998. Comparisons of DNA sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 349-372 to sequences in the EMBL DNA database (using
15 BLASTN) and amino acid sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 373-398 to sequences in the SwissProt database (using BLASTP) were made as of January 23, 1999.

Isolated cDNA sequences and their corresponding predicted protein sequences were computer analyzed for the presence of signal sequences identifying secreted molecules. Isolated cDNA sequences that have a signal sequence at a putative start site
20 within the sequence are provided in SEQ ID NO: 1-44, 198-238, 349-358, and 399. The cDNA sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1-6, 198-199, 349-352, 354, and 356-358 were determined to have less than 75% identity (determined as described above), to sequences in the EMBL database using the computer algorithms FASTA or BLASTN, as described above. The predicted amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 120-125, 275-276, 373-380,
25 and 382 were determined to have less than 75% identity (determined as described above) to sequences in the SwissProt database using the computer algorithms FASTX or BLASTP, as described above.

Further sequencing of the some of the isolated partial cDNA sequences resulted in the isolation of the full-length cDNA sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 7-14, 200-231,
30 and 372. The corresponding predicted amino acid sequences are provided in SEQ ID NO: 126-133, 277-308, and 396, respectively. Comparison of the full length cDNA

sequences with those in the EMBL database using the computer algorithm FASTA or BLASTN, as described above, revealed less than 75% identity (determined as described above) to known sequences. Comparison of the predicted amino acid sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 126-133 and 277-308 with those in the SwissProt database using the computer algorithms FASTX or BLASTP, as described above, revealed less than 75% identity (determined as described above) to known sequences.

Comparison of the predicted amino acid sequences corresponding to the cDNA sequences of SEQ ID NO: 15-23 with those in the EMBL using the computer algorithm FASTA database showed less than 75% identity (determined as described above) to known sequences. These predicted amino acid sequences are provided in SEQ ID NO: 134-142.

Further sequencing of some of the isolated partial cDNA sequences resulted in the isolation of full-length cDNA sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 24-44 and 232-238. The corresponding predicted amino acid sequences are provided in SEQ ID NO: 143-163 and 309-315, respectively. These amino acid sequences were determined to have less than 75% identity, determined as described above to known sequences in the SwissProt database using the computer algorithm FASTX.

Isolated cDNA sequences having less than 75% identity to known expressed sequence tags (ESTs) or to other DNA sequences in the public database, or whose corresponding predicted protein sequence showed less than 75% identity to known protein sequences, were computer analyzed for the presence of transmembrane domains coding for putative membrane-bound molecules. Isolated cDNA sequences that have either one or more transmembrane domain(s) within the sequence are provided in SEQ ID NO: 45-63, 239-253, 359-364, 400-402. The cDNA sequences of SEQ ID NO: 45-48, 239-249, 359-361, and 363 were found to have less than 75% identity (determined as described above) to sequences in the EMBL database, using the FASTA or BLASTN computer algorithms. Their predicted amino acid sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 164-167, 316-326, 383, 385-388 and 407-408 were found to have less than 75% identity, determined as described above, to sequences in the SwissProt database using the FASTX or BLASTP database.

Comparison of the predicted amino acid sequences corresponding to the cDNA sequences of SEQ ID NO: 49-63 and 250-253 with those in the SwissProt database showed less than 75% identity (determined as described above) to known sequences. These predicted amino acid sequences are provided in SEQ ID NO: 168-182 and
5 327-330.

Using automated search programs to screen against sequences coding for molecules reported to be of therapeutic and/or diagnostic use, some of the cDNA sequences isolated as described above in Example 1 were determined to encode predicted protein sequences that appear to be family members of known protein families. A family
10 member is here defined to have at least 25% identity in the translated polypeptide to a known protein or member of a protein family. These cDNA sequences are provided in SEQ ID NO: 64-76, 254-264, 365-369, and 403, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequences being provided in SEQ ID NO: 183-195, 331-341, 389-393 and 409, respectively. The cDNA sequences of SEQ ID NO: 64-68, 254-264, and 365-369 show
15 less than 75% identity (determined as described above) to sequences in the EMBL database using the FASTA or BLASTN computer algorithms. Similarly, the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 183-195, 331-341, and 389-393 show less than 75% identity to sequences in the SwissProt database.

The likely utility for each of the proteins encoded by the DNA sequences of SEQ
20 ID NO: 64-76, 254-264, 365-369, and 403, based on similarity to known proteins, is provided below:

Table 2
FUNCTIONS OF NOVEL PROTEINS

P/N SEQ ID NO:	A/A SEQ. ID NO.	SIMILARITY TO KNOWN PROTEINS
64 372	183 396	Slit, a secreted molecule required for central nervous system development
65	184	Immunoglobulin receptor family. About 40% of leucocyte membrane polypeptides contain immunoglobulin superfamily domains
66 403	185 409	RIP protein kinase, a serine/threonine kinase that contains a death domain to mediate apoptosis
67	186	Extracellular protein with epidermal growth factor domain capable of stimulating fibroblast proliferation
68	187	Transforming growth factor alpha, a protein which binds epidermal growth factor receptor and stimulates growth and mobility of keratinocytes
69	188	DRS protein which has a secretion signal component and whose expression is suppressed in cells transformed by oncogenes
70	189	A33 receptor with immunoglobulin-like domains and is expressed in greater than 95% of colon tumors
71	190	Interleukin-12 alpha subunit, component of a cytokine that is important in the immune defense against intracellular pathogens. IL-12 also stimulates proliferation and differentiation of TH1 subset of lymphocytes
72	191	Tumor Necrosis Factor receptor family of proteins that are involved in the proliferation, differentiation and death of many cell types including B and T lymphocytes.
73	192	Epidermal growth factor family proteins which stimulate growth and mobility of keratinocytes and epithelial cells. EGF is involved in wound healing. It also inhibits gastric acid secretion.
74	193	Fibronectin Type III receptor family. The fibronectin III domains are found on the extracellular regions of cytokine receptors
75	194	Serine/threonine kinases (STK2_HUMAN) which participate in cell cycle progression and signal transduction
76	195	Immunoglobulin receptor family
254	331	Receptor with immunoglobulin-like domains and homology to A33 receptor which is expressed in greater than 95% of colon tumors
255	332	Epidermal growth factor family proteins which stimulate growth and mobility of keratinocytes and epithelial cells. EGF is involved in wound healing. It also inhibits gastric acid secretion.

P/N SEQ ID NO:	A/A SEQ. ID NO.	SIMILARITY TO KNOWN PROTEINS
256	333	Serine/threonine kinases (STK2_HUMAN) which participate in cell cycle progression and signal transduction
257	334	Contains protein kinase and ankyrin domains. Possible role in cellular growth and differentiation.
258	335	Notch family proteins which are receptors involved in cellular differentiation.
259	336	Extracellular protein with epidermal growth factor domain capable of stimulating fibroblast proliferation.
260	337	Fibronectin Type III receptor family. The fibronectin III domains are found on the extracellular regions of cytokine receptors.
261	338	Immunoglobulin receptor family
262	339	ADP/ATP transporter family member containing a calcium binding site.
263	340	Mouse CXC chemokine family members are regulators of epithelial, lymphoid, myeloid, stromal and neuronal cell migration and cancers, agents for the healing of cancers, neuro-degenerative diseases, wound healing, inflammatory autoimmune diseases like psoriasis, asthma, Crohns disease and as agents for the prevention of HIV-1 of leukocytes
264	341	Nucleotide-sugar transporter family member.
365	389	Transforming growth factor betas (TGF-betas) are secreted covalently linked to latent TGF-beta-binding proteins (LTBPs). LTBPs are deposited in the extracellular matrix and play a role in cell growth or differentiation.
366	390	Integrins are Type I membrane proteins that function as laminin and collagen receptors and play a role in cell adhesion.
367	391	Integrins are Type I membrane proteins that function as laminin and collagen receptors and play a role in cell adhesion.
368	392	Cell wall protein precursor. Are involved in cellular growth or differentiation.
369	393	HT protein is a secreted glycoprotein with an EGF-like domain. It functions as a modulator of cell growth, death or differentiation.

These isolated sequences thus encode proteins that influence the growth, differentiation and activation of several cell types. They may usefully be developed as

agents for the treatment and diagnosis of skin wounds, cancers, growth and developmental defects, and inflammatory disease.

The polynucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 77-117, 265-267, and 404-405 are differentially expressed in either keratinocyte stem cells (KSCL) or in transit amplified cells (TRAM) on the basis of the number of times these sequences exclusively appear in either one of the above two libraries; more than 9 times in one and none in the other (Audic S. and Claverie J-M, *Genome Research*, 7:986-995, 1997). The sequences of SEQ ID NO: 77-89, 265-267, and 365-369 were determined to have less than 75% identity to sequences in the EMBL and SwissProt databases using the computer algorithm FASTA or BLASTN, as described above. The proteins encoded by these polynucleotide sequences have utility as markers for identification and isolation of these cell types, and antibodies against these proteins may be usefully employed in the isolation and enrichment of these cells from complex mixtures of cells. Isolated polynucleotides and their corresponding proteins exclusive to the stem cell population can be used as drug targets to cause alterations in regulation of growth and differentiation of skin cells, or in gene targeting to transport specific therapeutic molecules to skin stem cells.

Example 3

ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE HUMAN HOMOLOG OF muTR1

The human homolog of muTR1 (SEQ ID NO: 68), obtained as described above in Example 1, was isolated by screening 50,000 pfu's of an oligo dT primed HeLa cell cDNA library. Plaque lifts, hybridization, and screening were performed using standard molecular biology techniques (Sambrook, J, Fritsch, EF and Maniatis, T, eds., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor: New York, 1989). The determined cDNA sequence of the isolated human homolog (huTR1) is provided in SEQ ID NO: 118, with the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 196. The library was screened using an [α 32 P]-dCTP labeled double stranded cDNA probe corresponding to nucleotides 1 to 459 of the coding region within SEQ ID NO: 118.

The polypeptide sequence of huTR1 has regions similar to Transforming Growth Factor-alpha, indicating that this protein functions like an epidermal growth factor (EGF).

This EGF-like protein will serve to stimulate keratinocyte growth and motility, and to inhibit the growth of epithelial-derived cancer cells. This novel gene and its encoded protein may thus be used as agents for the healing of wounds and regulators of epithelial-derived cancers.

5 Analysis of RNA transcripts by Northern Blotting

Northern analysis to determine the size and distribution of mRNA for huTR1 was performed by probing human tissue mRNA blots (Clontech) with a probe comprising nucleotides 93-673 of SEQ ID NO: 118, radioactively labeled with [$\alpha^{32}\text{P}$]-dCTP.

10 Prehybridization, hybridization, washing and probe labeling were performed as described in Sambrook, *et al.*, *Ibid.* mRNA for huTR1 was 3.5-4kb in size and was observed to be most abundant in heart and placenta, with expression at lower levels being observed in spleen, thymus prostate and ovary (Fig. 1).

The high abundance of mRNA for huTR1 in the heart and placenta indicates a
15 role for huTR1 in the formation or maintenance of blood vessels, as heart and placental tissues have an increased abundance of blood vessels, and therefore endothelial cells, compared to other tissues in the body. This, in turn, demonstrates a role for huTR1 in angiogenesis and vascularization of tumors. This is supported by the ability of Transforming Growth Factor-alpha and EGF to induce *de novo* development of blood
20 vessels (Schreiber, *et al.*, *Science* 232:1250-1253, 1986) and stimulate DNA synthesis in endothelial cells (Schreiber, *et al.*, *Science* 232:1250-1253, 1986), and their over-expression in a variety of human tumors.

Purification of muTR1 and huTR1

Polynucleotides 177-329 of muTR1 (SEQ ID NO: 268), encoding amino acids
25 53-103 of muTR1 (SEQ ID NO: 342), and polynucleotides 208-360 of huTR1 (SEQ ID NO: 269), encoding amino acids 54-104 of huTR1 (SEQ ID NO: 343), were cloned into the bacterial expression vector pProEX HT (BRL Life Technologies), which contains a bacterial leader sequence and N-terminal 6xHistidine tag. These constructs were transformed into competent XL1-Blue *E. coli* as described in Sambrook *et al.*, *Ibid.*

30 Starter cultures of these recombinant XL1-Blue *E. coli* were grown overnight at 37°C in Terrific broth containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin. This culture was spun down and

used to inoculate 500 ml culture of Terrific broth containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin. Cultures were grown until the OD₅₉₅ of the cells was between 0.4 and 0.8, whereupon IPTG was added to 1 mM. Cells were induced overnight and bacteria were harvested by centrifugation.

5 Both the polypeptide of muTR1 (SEQ ID NO: 342; referred to as muTR1a) and that of huTR1 (SEQ ID NO: 343; referred to as huTR1a) were expressed in insoluble inclusion bodies. In order to purify the polypeptides muTR1a and huTR1a, bacterial cell pellets were re-suspended in lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 10 mM beta mercaptoethanol, 1 mM PMSF). To the lysed cells, 1% NP40 was added and the mix
10 incubated on ice for 10 minutes. Lysates were further disrupted by sonication on ice at 95W for 4 x 15 seconds and then centrifuged for 15 minutes at 14,000 rpm to pellet the inclusion bodies.

The resulting pellet was re-suspended in lysis buffer containing 0.5% w/v CHAPS and sonicated on ice for 5-10 seconds. This mix was stored on ice for 1 hour, centrifuged
15 at 14,000 rpm for 15 minutes at 4 °C and the supernatant discarded. The pellet was once more re-suspended in lysis buffer containing 0.5% w/v CHAPS, sonicated, centrifuged and the supernatant removed as before. The pellet was re-suspended in solubilizing buffer (6 M Guanidine HCl, 0.5 M NaCl, 20 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0), sonicated at 95 W for 4 x 15 seconds and then centrifuged for 20 minutes at 14,000 rpm and 4 °C to remove
20 debris. The supernatant was stored at 4 °C until use.

Polypeptides muTR1a and huTR1a were purified by virtue of the N-terminal 6x Histidine tag contained within the bacterial leader sequence, using a Nickel-Chelating Sepharose column (Amersham Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden) and following the manufacturer's recommended protocol. In order to refold the proteins once purified, the
25 protein solution was added to 5x its volume of refolding buffer (1 mM EDTA, 1.25 mM reduced glutathione, 0.25 mM oxidised glutathione, 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0) over a period of 1 hour at 4 °C. The refolding buffer was stirred rapidly during this time, and stirring continued at 4 °C overnight. The refolded proteins were then concentrated by ultrafiltration using standard protocols.

Biological Activities of Polypeptides muTR1a and huTR1a

muTR1 and huTR1 are novel members of the EGF family, which includes EGF, TGF α , epiregulin and others. These growth factors are known to act as ligands for the EGF receptor. The pathway of EGF receptor activation is well documented. Upon
5 binding of a ligand to the EGF receptor, a cascade of events follows, including the phosphorylation of proteins known as MAP kinases. The phosphorylation of MAP kinase can thus be used as a marker of EGF receptor activation. Monoclonal antibodies exist which recognize the phosphorylated forms of 2 MAP kinase proteins – ERK1 and ERK2.

10 In order to examine whether purified polypeptides of muTR1a and huTR1a act as a ligand for the EGF receptor, cells from the human epidermal carcinoma cell line A431 (American Type Culture Collection, No. CRL-1555, Manassas, Virginia) were seeded into 6 well plates, serum starved for 24 hours, and then stimulated with purified muTR1a or huTR1a for 5 minutes in serum free conditions. As a positive control, cells were
15 stimulated in the same way with 10 to 100 ng/ml TGF- α or EGF. As a negative control, cells were stimulated with PBS containing varying amounts of LPS. Cells were immediately lysed and protein concentration of the lysates estimated by Bradford assay. 15 μ g of protein from each sample was loaded onto 12% SDS-PAGE gels. The proteins were then transferred to PVDF membrane using standard techniques.

20 For Western blotting, membranes were incubated in blocking buffer (10mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, 100 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween-20, 5% non-fat milk) for 1 hour at room temperature. Rabbit anti-Active MAP kinase pAb (Promega, Madison, Wisconsin) was added to 50 ng/ml in blocking buffer and incubated overnight at 4 °C. Membranes were washed for 30 mins in blocking buffer minus non-fat milk before being incubated with
25 anti rabbit IgG-HRP antibody, at a 1:3500 dilution in blocking buffer, for 1 hour at room temperature. Membranes were washed for 30 minutes in blocking buffer minus non-fat milk, then once for 5 minutes in blocking buffer minus non-fat milk and 0.1% Tween-20. Membranes were then exposed to ECL reagents for 2 min, and then autoradiographed for 5 to 30 min.

30 As shown in Fig. 2, both muTR1a and huTR1a were found to induce the phosphorylation of ERK1 and ERK2 over background levels, indicating that muTR1 and

huTR1 act as ligands for a cell surface receptor that activates the MAP kinase signaling pathway, possibly the EGF receptor. As shown in Fig. 11, huTR1a was also demonstrated to induce the phosphorylation of ERK1 and ERK2 in CV1/EBNA kidney epithelial cells in culture, as compared with the negative control. These assays were conducted as described above. This indicates that huTR1a acts as a ligand for a cell surface receptor that activates the MAP kinase signaling pathway, possibly the EGF receptor in HeLa and CV1/EBNA cells.

The ability of muTR1a to stimulate the growth of neonatal foreskin (NF) keratinocytes was determined as follows. NF keratinocytes derived from surgical discards were cultured in KSFM (BRL Life Technologies) supplemented with bovine pituitary extract (BPE) and epidermal growth factor (EGF). The assay was performed in 96 well flat-bottomed plates in 0.1 ml unsupplemented KSFM. MuTR1a, human transforming growth factor alpha (huTGF α) or PBS-BSA was titrated into the plates and 1×10^3 NF keratinocytes were added to each well. The plates were incubated for 5 days in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂ at 37°C. The degree of cell growth was determined by MTT dye reduction as described previously (*J. Imm. Meth.* 93:157-165, 1986). As shown in Fig. 3, both muTR1a and the positive control human TGF α stimulated the growth of NF keratinocytes, whereas the negative control, PBS-BSA, did not.

The ability of muTR1a and huTR1a to stimulate the growth of a transformed human keratinocyte cell line, HaCaT, was determined as follows. The assay was performed in 96 well flat-bottomed plates in 0.1 ml DMEM (BRL Life Technologies) supplemented with 0.2% FCS. MuTR1a, huTR1a and PBS-BSA were titrated into the plates and 1×10^3 HaCaT cells were added to each well. The plates were incubated for 5 days in an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂ at 37°C. The degree of cell growth was determined by MTT dye reduction as described previously (*J. Imm. Meth.* 93:157-165, 1986). As shown in Fig. 4, both muTR1a and huTR1a stimulated the growth of HaCaT cells, whereas the negative control PBS-BSA did not.

The ability of muTR1a and huTR1a to inhibit the growth of A431 cells was determined as follows. Polypeptides muTR1a (SEQ ID NO: 342) and huTR1a (SEQ ID NO: 343) and PBS-BSA were titrated as described previously (*J. Cell. Biol.* 93:1-4, 1982) and cell death determined using the MTT dye reduction as described previously

(*J. Imm. Meth.* 93:157-165, 1986). Both muTR1a and huTR1a were found to inhibit the growth of A431 cells, whereas the negative control PBS-BSA did not (Fig. 5).

These results indicate that muTR1 and huTR1 stimulate keratinocyte growth and motility, inhibit the growth of epithelial-derived cancer cells, and play a role in angiogenesis and vascularization of tumors. This novel gene and its encoded protein may thus be developed as agents for the healing of wounds, angiogenesis and regulators of epithelial-derived cancers.

Upregulation of huTR1 and mRNA expression

HeLa cells (human cervical adenocarcinoma) were seeded in 10 cm dishes at a concentration of 1×10^6 cells per dish. After incubation overnight, media was removed and replaced with media containing 100 ng/ml of muTR1, huTR1, huTGF α , or PBS as a negative control. After 18 hours, media was removed and the cells lysed in 2 ml of TRIzol reagent (Gibco BRL Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Maryland). Total RNA was isolated according to the manufacturer's instructions. To identify mRNA levels of huTR1 from the cDNA samples, 1 μ l of cDNA was used in a standard PCR reaction. After cycling for 30 cycles, 5 μ l of each PCR reaction was removed and separated on a 1.5% agarose gel. Bands were visualized by ethidium bromide staining. As can be seen from Fig. 12, both mouse and human TR1 up-regulate the mRNA levels of huTR1 as compared with cells stimulated with the negative control of PBS. Furthermore, TGF α can also up-regulate the mRNA levels of huTR1.

These results indicate that TR1 is able to sustain its own mRNA expression and subsequent protein expression, and thus is expected to be able to contribute to the progression of diseases such as psoriasis where high levels of cytokine expression are involved in the pathology of the disease. Furthermore, since TGF α can up-regulate the expression of huTR1, the up-regulation of TR1 mRNA may be critical to the mode of action of TGF α .

Serum response element reporter gene assay

The serum response element (SRE) is a promoter element required for the regulation of many cellular immediate-early genes by growth. Studies have demonstrated that the activity of the SRE can be regulated by the MAP kinase signaling pathway. Two cell lines, PC12 (rat pheochromocytoma – neural tumor) and HaCaT (human transformed

keratinocytes), containing eight SRE upstream of an SV40 promotor and luciferase reporter gene were developed in-house. 5×10^3 cells were aliquoted per well of 96 well plate and grown for 24 hours in their respective media. HaCaT SRE cells were grown in 5% fetal bovine serum (FBS) in D-MEM supplemented with 2mM L-glutamine (Sigma, St. Louis, Missouri), 1mM sodium pyruvate (BRL Life Technologies), 0.77mM L-asparagine (Sigma), 0.2mM arginine (Sigma), 160mM penicillin G (Sigma), 70mM dihydrostreptomycin (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Basel, Switzerland), and 0.5 mg/ml geneticin (BRL Life Technologies). PC12 SRE cells were grown in 5% fetal bovine serum in Ham F12 media supplemented with 0.4 mg/ml geneticin (BRL Life Technologies). Media was then changed to 0.1% FBS and incubated for a further 24 hours. Cells were then stimulated with a titration of TR1 from 1 μ g/ml. A single dose of basic fibroblast growth factor at 100 ng/ml (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, Minnesota) or epidermal growth factor at 10 ng/ml (BRL Life Technologies) was used as a positive control. Cells were incubated in the presence of muTR1 or positive control for 6 hours, washed twice in PBS and lysed with 40 μ l of lysis buffer (Promega). 10 μ l was transferred to a 96 well plate and 10 μ l of luciferase substrate (Promega) added by direct injection into each well by a Victor² fluorimeter (Wallac), the plate was shaken and the luminescence for each well read at 3x1 sec Intervals. Fold induction of SRE was calculated using the following equation: Fold induction of SRE = Mean relative luminescence of agonist/Mean relative luminescence of negative control.

As shown in Fig. 13, muTR1 activates the SRE in both PC-12 (Fig. 13a) and HaCaT (Fig. 13b) cells. This indicates that HaCaT and PC-12 cells are able to respond to muTR1 protein and elicit a response. In the case of HaCaT cells, this is a growth response. In the case of PC-12 cells, this may be a growth, a growth inhibition, differentiation, or migration response. Thus, TR1 may be important in the development of neural cells or their differentiation into specific neural subsets. TR1 may also be important in the development and progression of neural tumors.

Inhibition by the EGF receptor assay

The HaCaT growth assay was conducted as previously described, except that modifications were made as follows. Concurrently with the addition of EGF and TR1 to the media, anti-EGF Receptor (EGFR) antibody (Promega, Madison, Wisconsin) or

negative control antibody, mouse IgG (PharMingen, San Diego, California), were added at a concentration of 62.5 ng/ml.

As seen in Fig. 14, an antibody which blocks the function of the EGFR inhibits the mitogenicity of TR1 on HaCaT cells. This indicates that the EGFR is crucial for transmission of the TR1 mitogenic signal on HaCaT cells. TR1 may bind directly to the EGF receptor. TR1 may also bind to any other members of the EGFR family – ErbB-2, -3, and/or -4 – that are capable of heterodimerizing with the EGFR.

Sequence of splice variant of huTR1, huTR1 β

A variant of huTR1 was isolated from the same library as huTR1 (SEQ ID NO: 118), following the same protocols. This sequence is a splice variant of huTR1 and consists of the ORF of huTR1 minus amino acids 87 to 137. This has the effect of deleting the third cysteine residue of the EGF motif and the transmembrane domain. However, cysteine residue 147 (huTR1 ORF numbering) may replace the deleted cysteine and thus the disulphide bridges are likely not affected. Therefore, huTR1 β is a secreted form of huTR1. It functions as an agonist or an antagonist to huTR1 or other EGF family members, including EGF and TGF α . The determined nucleotide sequence of the splice variant of TR1, referred to as huTR1 β , is given in SEQ ID NO: 371 and the corresponding predicted amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 395.

Example 4

IDENTIFICATION, ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF DP3

A partial cDNA fragment, referred to as DP3, was identified by differential display RT-PCR (modified from Liang P and Pardee AB, *Science* 257:967-971, 1992) using mRNA from cultured rat dermal papilla and footpad fibroblast cells, isolated by standard cell biology techniques. This double stranded cDNA was labeled with [α^{32} P]-dCTP and used to identify a full length DP3 clone by screening 400,000 pfu's of an oligo dT-primed rat dermal papilla cDNA library. The determined full-length cDNA sequence for DP3 is provided in SEQ ID NO: 119, with the corresponding amino acid sequence being provided in SEQ ID NO: 197. Plaque lifts, hybridization and screening were performed using standard molecular biology techniques.

Example 5ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE
HUMAN HOMOLOG OF muKS15 Analysis of RNA transcripts by Northern Blotting

Northern analysis to determine the size and distribution of mRNA for muKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 263) was performed by probing murine tissue mRNA blots with a probe consisting of nucleotides 268-499 of muKS1, radioactively labeled with [α^{32} P]-dCTP. Prehybridization, hybridization, washing, and probe labeling were performed as
10 described in Sambrook, *et al.*, *Ibid.* mRNA for muKS1 was 1.6 kb in size and was observed to be most abundant in brain, lung, muscle, and heart. Expression could also be detected in lower intestine, skin, and kidney. No detectable signal was found in testis, spleen, liver, thymus, stomach.

Human homologue of muKS1

15 MuKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 263) was used to search the EMBL database (Release 50, plus updates to June, 1998) to identify human EST homologues. The top three homologies were to the following ESTs: accession numbers AA643952, HS1301003 and AA865643. These showed 92.63% identity over 285 nucleotides, 93.64% over 283 nucleotides and 94.035% over 285 nucleotides, respectively. Frame shifts were identified
20 in AA643952 and HS1301003 when translated. Combination of all three ESTs identified huKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 270) and translated polypeptide SEQ ID NO: 344. Alignment of muKS1 and huKS1 polypeptides indicated 95% identity over 96 amino acids.

Bacterial expression and purification of muKS1 and huKS1

Polynucleotides 269-502 of muKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 271), encoding amino acids
25 23-99 of polypeptide muKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 345), and polynucleotides 55-288 of huKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 272), encoding amino acids 19-95 of polypeptide huKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 346), were cloned into the bacterial expression vector pET-16b (Novagen, Madison, Wisconsin), which contains a bacterial leader sequence and N-terminal 6xHistidine tag. These constructs were transformed into competent XL1-Blue *E. coli* as described in
30 Sambrook *et al.*, *Ibid.*

Starter cultures of recombinant BL 21 (DE3) *E. coli* (Novagen) containing SEQ ID NO: 271 (muKS1a) and SEQ ID NO: 272 (huKS1a) were grown in NZY broth containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin (Gibco-BRL Life Technologies) at 37°C. Cultures were spun down and used to inoculate 800 ml of NZY broth and 100 µg/ml ampicillin. Cultures were grown until the OD₅₉₅ of the cells was between 0.4 and 0.8. Bacterial expression was induced for 3 hours with 1 mM IPTG. Bacterial expression produced an induced band of approximately 15kDa for muKS1a and huKS1a.

MuKS1a and huKS1a were expressed in insoluble inclusion bodies. In order to purify the polypeptides, bacterial cell pellets were re-suspended in lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 10 mM βMercaptoethanol, 1 mM PMSF). To the lysed cells, 1% NP-40 was added and the mix incubated on ice for 10 minutes. Lysates were further disrupted by sonication on ice at 95 W for 4 x 15 seconds and then centrifuged for 10 minutes at 18,000 rpm to pellet the inclusion bodies.

The pellet containing the inclusion bodies was re-suspended in lysis buffer containing 0.5% w/v CHAPS and sonicated for 5-10 seconds. This mix was stored on ice for 1 hour, centrifuged at 14000 rpm for 15 minutes at 4°C and the supernatant discarded. The pellet was once more re-suspended in lysis buffer containing 0.5% w/v CHAPS, sonicated, centrifuged, and the supernatant removed as before. The pellet was re-suspended in solubilizing buffer (6 M guanidine HCl, 0.5 M NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0), sonicated at 95W for 4 x 15 seconds and centrifuged for 10 minutes at 18000 rpm and 4°C to remove debris. The supernatant was stored at 4°C. MuKS1a and huKS1a were purified by virtue of the N-terminal 6x histidine tag contained within the bacterial leader sequence, using a Nickel-Chelating sepharose column (Amersham Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden) and following the manufacturer's protocol. Proteins were purified twice over the column to reduce endotoxin contamination. In order to re-fold the proteins once purified, the protein solution was dialysed in a 4 M-2 M urea gradient in 20 mM tris-HCl pH 7.5 + 10% glycerol overnight at 4°C. The protein was then further dialysed 2x against 2 litres of 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5 + 10% glycerol.

Peptide sequencing of muKS1 and huKS1

Bacterially expressed muKS1 and huKS1 were separated on polyacrylamide gels and induced bands of 15 kDa were identified. The predicted size of muKS1 is 9.4 kDa.

To obtain the amino acid sequence of the 15 kDa bands, 20 µg recombinant muKS1 and huKS1 was resolved by SDS-PAGE and electroblotted onto Immobilon PVDF membrane (Millipore, Bedford, Massachusetts). Internal amino acid sequencing was performed on tryptic peptides of muKS1 and huKS1 by the Protein Sequencing Unit at the University
5 of Auckland, New Zealand.

The determined amino acid sequences for muKS1 and huKS1 are given in SEQ ID NOS: 397 and 398, respectively. These amino acid sequences confirmed that the determined sequences are identical to that predicted from the cDNA sequences. The size discrepancy has previously been reported for other chemokines (Richmond A,
10 Balentien E, Thomas HG, Flaggs G, Barton DE, Spiess J, Bordoni R, Francke U, Derynck R, "Molecular characterization and chromosomal mapping of melanoma growth stimulatory activity, a growth factor structurally related to beta-thromboglobulin," *EMBO J.* 7:2025-2033, 1988; Liao F, Rabin RL, Yannelli JR, Koniaris LG, Vanguri P, Farber JM, "Human Nig chemokine: biochemical and functional characterization,"
15 *J. Exp. Med.* 182:1301-1314, 1995). The isoelectric focusing point of these proteins was predicted to be 10.26 using DNASIS (HITACHI Software Engineering, San Francisco, California).

Oxidative burst assay

Oxidative burst assays were used to determine responding cell types. 1×10^7
20 PBMC cells were resuspended in 5 ml HBSS, 20mM HEPES, 0.5% BSA and incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C with 5 µl 5 mM dichloro-dihydrofluorescein diacetate (H₂DCFDA, Molecular Probes, Eugene, Oregon). 2×10^5 H₂DCFDA-labeled cells were loaded in each well of a flat-bottomed 96 well plate. 10 µl of each agonist was added simultaneously into the well of the flat-bottomed plate to give final concentrations of
25 100 ng/ml (fMLP was used at 10 µM). The plate was then read on a Victor² 1420 multilabel counter (Wallac, Turku, Finland) with a 485 nm excitation wavelength and 535 nm emission wavelength. Relative fluorescence was measured at 5 minute intervals over 60 minutes.

A pronounced respiratory burst was identified in PBMC with a 2.5 fold difference
30 between control treated cells (TR1) and cells treated with 100 ng/ml muKS1 (Fig. 8).

Human stromal derived factor-1 α (SDF1 α) (100 ng/ml) and 10 μ M formyl-Met-Leu-Phe (fMLP) were used as positive controls.

Chemotaxis assay

Cell migration in response to muKS1 was tested using a 48 well Boyden's chamber (Neuro Probe Inc., Cabin John, Maryland) as described in the manufacturer's protocol. In brief, agonists were diluted in HBSS, 20mM HEPES, 0.5% BSA and added to the bottom wells of the chemotactic chamber. THP-1 cells were re-suspended in the same buffer at 3×10^5 cells per 50 μ l. Top and bottom wells were separated by a PVP-free polycarbonate filter with a 5 μ m pore size for monocytes or 3 μ m pore size for lymphocytes. Cells were added to the top well and the chamber incubated for 2 hours for monocytes and 4 hours for lymphocytes in a 5% CO₂ humidified incubator at 37°C. After incubation, the filter was fixed and cells scraped from the upper surface. The filter was then stained with Diff-Quick (Dade International Inc., Miami, Florida) and the number of migrating cells counted in five randomly selected high power fields. The results are expressed as a migration index (the number of test migrated cells divided by the number of control migrated cells).

Using this assay, muKS1 was tested against T cells and THP-1 cells. MuKS1 induced a titrateable chemotactic effect on THP-1 cells from 0.01 ng/ml to 100 ng/ml (Fig. 9). Human SDF1 α was used as a positive control and gave an equivalent migration. MuKS1 was also tested against IL-2 activated T cells. However, no migration was evidence for muKS1 even at high concentrations, whereas SDF-1 α provided an obvious titrateable chemotactic stimulus. Therefore, muKS1 appears to be chemotactic for THP-1 cells but not for IL-2 activated T cells at the concentrations tested.

Full length sequence of muKS1 clone

The nucleotide sequence of muKS1 was extended by determining the base sequence of additional ESTs. Combination of all the ESTs identified the full-length muKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 370) and the corresponding translated polypeptide sequence in SEQ ID NO: 394.

Analysis of human RNA transcripts by Northern blotting

Northern blot analysis to determine the size and distribution of mRNA for the human homologue of muKS1 was performed by probing human tissue blots (Clontech,

Palo Alto, California) with a radioactively labeled probe consisting of nucleotides 1 to 288 of huKS1 (SEQ ID NO: 270). Prehybridization, hybridization, washing, and probe labeling were performed as described in Sambrook, *et al.*, *Ibid.* mRNA for huKS1 was 1.6 kb in size and was observed to be most abundance in kidney, liver, colon, small intestine, and spleen. Expression could also be detected in pancreas, skeletal muscle, placenta, brain, heart, prostate, and thymus. No detectable signal was found in lung, ovary, and testis.

Analysis of human RNA transcripts in tumor tissue by Northern blotting

Northern blot analysis to determine distribution of huKS1 in cancer tissue was performed as described previously by probing tumor panel blots (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, California). These blots make a direct comparison between normal and tumor tissue. MRNA was observed in normal uterine and cervical tissue but not in the respective tumor tissue. In contrast, expression was up-regulated in breast tumor and down-regulated in normal breast tissue. No detectable signal was found in either ovary or ovarian tumors.

15 *Injection of bacterially expressed muKS1a into nude mice*

Two nude mice were anaesthetised intraperitoneally with 75 µl of 1/10 dilution of Hypnorm (Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Buckinghamshire, England) in phosphate buffered saline. 20ug of bacterially expressed muKS1a (SEQ ID NO: 345) was injected subcutaneously in the left hind foot, ear and left-hand side of the back. The same volume of phosphate buffered saline was injected in the same sites but on the right-hand side of the same animal. Mice were left for 18 hours and then examined for inflammation. Both mice showed a red swelling in the ear and foot sites injected with the bacterially expressed protein. No obvious inflammation could be identified in either back site. Mice were culled and biopsies taken from the ear, back and foot sites and fixed in 3.7% formol saline. Biopsies were embedded, sectioned and stained with Haemotoxylin and eosin. Sites injected with muKS1a had a marked increase in polymorphonuclear granulocytes, whereas sites injected with phosphate buffered saline had a low background infiltrate of polymorphonuclear granulocytes.

Injection of bacterially recombinant muKS1 into C3H/HeJ mice

30 Eighteen C3H/HeJ mice were divided into 3 groups and injected intraperitoneally with muKS1, GV14B, or phosphate buffered saline (PBS). GV14B is a bacterially

expressed recombinant protein used as a negative control. Group 1 mice were injected with 50 µg of muKS1 in 1 ml of PBS; Group 2 mice were injected with 50 µg of GV14B in 1 ml of PBS; and Group 3 mice with 1 ml of PBS. After 18 hours, the cells in the peritoneal cavity of the mice were isolated by intraperitoneal lavage with 2 x 4 ml washes
5 with harvest solution (0.02% EDTA in PBS). Viable cells were counted from individual mice from each group. Mice injected with 50 µg of muKS1 had on average a 3-fold increase in cell numbers (Fig. 10).

20 µg of bacterial recombinant muKS1 was injected subcutaneously into the left hind foot of three C3H/HeJ mice. The same volume of PBS was injected into the same
10 site on the right-hand side of the same animal. After 18 hours, mice were examined for inflammation. All mice showed a red swelling in the foot pad injected with bacterially recombinant KS1. From histology, sites injected with muKS1 had an inflammatory response of a mixed phenotype with mononuclear and polymorphonuclear cells present.

Chemokines are a large superfamily of highly basic secreted proteins with a broad
15 number of functions (Baggiolini, *et al.*, *Annu. Rev. Immunol.*, 15:675-705, 1997; Ward, *et al.*, *Immunity*, 9:1-11, 1998; Horuk, *Nature*, 393:524-525, 1998). The polypeptide sequences of muKS1 and huKS1 have similarity to CXC chemokines, suggesting that this protein will act like other CXC chemokines. The *in vivo* data from nude mice supports this hypothesis. This chemokine-like protein may therefore be expected to stimulate
20 leukocyte, epithelial, stromal, and neuronal cell migration; promote angiogenesis and vascular development; promote neuronal patterning, hemopoietic stem cell mobilization, keratinocyte and epithelial stem cell patterning and development, activation and proliferation of leukocytes; and promotion of migration in wound healing events. It has recently been shown that receptors to chemokines act as co-receptors for HIV-1 infection
25 of CD4+ cells (Cairns, *et al.*, *Nature Medicine*, 4:563-568, 1998) and that high circulating levels of chemokines can render a degree of immunity to those exposed to the HIV virus (Zagury, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 95:3857-3861, 1998). This novel gene and its encoded protein may thus be usefully employed as regulators of epithelial, lymphoid, myeloid, stromal, and neuronal cells migration and cancers; as agents for the
30 treatment of cancers, neuro-degenerative diseases, inflammatory autoimmune diseases

such as psoriasis, asthma and Crohn's disease for use in wound healing; and as agents for the prevention of HIV-1 binding and infection of leukocytes.

We have also shown that muKS1 can promote a quantifiable increase in cell numbers in the peritoneal cavity of C3H/HeJ mice injected with muKS1. Furthermore, we have shown that muKS1 can induce an oxidative burst in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells and migration in the human monocyte leukemia cell line, THP-1, suggesting that monocyte/macrophages are one of the responsive cell types for KS1. In addition to this, we demonstrated that huKS1 was expressed at high levels in a number of non-lymphoid tissues, such as the colon and small intestine, and in breast tumors. It was also expressed in normal uterine and cervical tissue, but was completely down-regulated in their respective tumors. It has recently been shown that non-ELR chemokines have demonstrated angiostatic properties. IP-10 and Mig, two non-ELR chemokines, have previously been shown to be up-regulated during regression of tumors (Tannenbaum CS, Tubbs R, Armstrong D, Finke JH, Bukowski RM, Hamilton TA, "The CXC Chemokines IP-10 and Mig are necessary for IL-12-mediated regression of the mouse RENCA tumor," *J. Immunol.* 161: 927-932, 1998), with levels of expression inversely correlating with tumor size (Kanehane C, Sgadari C, Kanehane H, Teruya-Feldstine J, Yao O, Gupta G, Farber JM, Liao F, Liu L, Tosato G, "Contribution of the CXC Chemokines IP-10 and Mig to the antitumor effects of IL-12," *J. Leuko. Biol.* 64: 384-392, 1998). Furthermore, neutralizing antibodies to IP-10 and Mig would reduce the anti-tumor effect, indicating the contribution these molecules make to the anti-tumor effects. Therefore, it is expected that in the case of cervical and uterine tumors, KS1 would have similar properties.

The data demonstrates that KS1 is involved in cell migration showing that one of the responsive cell types is monocyte/macrophage. The human expression data in conjunction with the *in vitro* and *in vivo* biology demonstrates that this molecule may be a useful regulator in cell migration, and as an agent for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and rheumatoid arthritis; and cancers, such as cervical adenocarcinoma, uterine leiomyoma, and breast invasive ductal carcinoma.

Example 6

CHARACTERIZATION OF KS2

KS2 contains a transmembrane domain and may function as either a membrane-bound ligand or a receptor. Northern analysis indicated that the mRNA for KS2 was expressed in the mouse keratinocyte cell line, Pam212, consistent with the cDNA being identified in mouse keratinocytes.

Mammalian Expression

To express KS2, the extracellular domain was fused to the amino terminus of the constant domain of immunoglobulinG (Fc) that had a C-terminal 6xHistidine tag. This was performed by cloning polynucleotides 20-664 of KS2 (SEQ ID NO: 273), encoding amino acids 1-215 of polypeptide KS2 (SEQ ID NO: 347), into the mammalian expression vector pcDNA3 (Invitrogen, NV Leek, Netherlands), to the amino terminus of the constant domain of immunoglobulinG (Fc) that had a C-terminal 6xHistidine tag. This construct was transformed into competent XL1-Blue *E. coli* as described in Sambrook et al., *Ibid.* The Fc fusion construct of KS2a was expressed by transfecting Cos-1 cells in 5 x T175 flasks with 180 µg of KS1a using DEAE-dextran. The supernatant was harvested after seven days and passed over a Ni-NTA column. Bound KS2a was eluted from the column and dialysed against PBS.

The ability of the Fc fusion polypeptide of KS2a to inhibit the IL-2 induced growth of concanavalin A stimulated murine splenocytes was determined as follows. A single cell suspension was prepared from the spleens of BALB/c mice and washed into DMEM (GIBCO-BRL) supplemented with 2 mM L-glutamine, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, 0.77 mM L-asparagine, 0.2 mM L-arginine, 160 mM penicillin G, 70 mM dihydrostreptomycin sulfate, 5×10^{-2} mM beta mercaptoethanol and 5% FCS (cDMEM). Splenocytes (4×10^6 /ml) were stimulated with 2 µg/ml concanavalin A for 24 hrs at 37°C in 10% CO₂. The cells were harvested from the culture, washed 3 times in cDMEM and resuspended in cDMEM supplemented with 10 ng/ml rhuIL-2 at 1×10^5 cells/ml. The assay was performed in 96 well round bottomed plates in 0.2 ml cDMEM. The Fc fusion polypeptide of KS2a, PBS, LPS and BSA were titrated into the plates and 1×10^4 activated T cells (0.1 ml) were added to each well. The plates were incubated for 2 days in an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂ at 37°C. The degree of proliferation was

determined by pulsing the cells with 0.25 uCi/ml tritiated thymidine for the final 4 hrs of culture after which the cells were harvested onto glass fiber filtermats and the degree of thymidine incorporation determined by standard liquid scintillation techniques. As shown in Fig. 6, the Fc fusion polypeptide of KS2a was found to inhibit the IL-2 induced growth of concanavalin A stimulated murine splenocytes, whereas the negative controls PBS, BSA and LPS did not.

This data demonstrates that KS2 is expressed in skin keratinocytes and inhibits the growth of cytokine induced splenocytes. This suggests a role for KS2 in the regulation of skin inflammation and malignancy.

10

Example 7

Characterization of KS3

KS3 encodes a polypeptide of 40 amino acids (SEQ ID NO: 129). KS3 contains a signal sequence of 23 amino acids that would result in a mature polypeptide of 17 amino acids (SEQ ID NO: 348; referred to as KS3a).

KS3a was prepared synthetically (Chiron Technologies, Victoria, Australia) and observed to enhance transferrin-induced growth of the rat intestinal epithelial cells IEC-18 cells. The assay was performed in 96 well flat-bottomed plates in 0.1 ml DMEM (GIBCO-BRL Life Technologies) supplemented with 0.2% FCS. KS3a (SEQ ID NO: 348), apo-Transferrin, media and PBS-BSA were titrated either alone, with 750 ng/ml Apo-transferrin or with 750 ng/ml BSA, into the plates and 1×10^3 IEC-18 cells were added to each well. The plates were incubated for 5 days at 37°C in an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂. The degree of cell growth was determined by MTT dye reduction as described previously (*J. Imm. Meth.* 93:157-165, 1986). As shown in Fig. 7, KS3a plus Apo-transferrin was found to enhance transferrin-induced growth of IEC-18 cells, whereas KS3a alone or PBS-BSA did not, indicating that KS3a and Apo-transferrin act synergistically to induce the growth of IEC-18 cells.

This data indicates that KS3 is epithelial derived and stimulates the growth of epithelial cells of the intestine. This suggests a role for KS3 in wound healing, protection from radiation- or drug-induced intestinal disease, and integrity of the epithelium of the intestine.

SEQ ID NOS: 1-409 are set out in the attached Sequence Listing. The codes for polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences used in the attached Sequence Listing confirm to WIPO Standard ST.25 (1988), Appendix 2.

5 All references cited herein, including patent references and non-patent references, are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

Although the present invention has been described in terms of specific embodiments, changes and modifications can be carried out without departing from the scope of the invention which is intended to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

10

We claim:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) the sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274,
5 349-372, and 399-405; (2) complements of the sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372, and 399-405; (3) reverse complements of the sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372, and 399-405; (4) reverse sequences of the sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-119, 198-274, 349-372, and 399-405; (5) sequences having at least a 99% probability of being the same as a sequence selected from any of
10 the sequences in (1)-(4), above, as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP using the running parameters described above; and (6) nucleotide sequences having at least 50% identity to any of the sequences in (1)-(4), above, as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP using the running parameters and identity test defined above.
- 15 2. An expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide of claim 1.
3. A host cell transformed with an expression vector of claim 2.
4. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from
20 the group consisting of: (1) sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, and 406-409; (2) sequences having at least a 99% probability of being the same as a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, and 406-409, as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP using the running parameters described above; and (3) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:
25 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, and 406-409, as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP using the running parameters and identity test defined above.
5. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 4.
- 30 6. An expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide of claim 5.

7. A host cell transformed with an expression vector of claim 6.

8. An isolated polypeptide comprising at least a functional portion of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 (1) sequences provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, and 406-409;
(2) sequences having at least a 99% probability of being the same as a sequence of SEQ
ID NO: 120-197, 275-348, 373-398, and 406-409, as measured by the computer
algorithm BLASTP using the running parameters described above; and (3) sequences
having at least 50% identity to a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 120-197, 275-348,
10 373-398, and 406-409, as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP, using the
running parameters and identity test defined above.

9. A method for stimulating keratinocyte growth and motility in a patient,
comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated
15 polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid
sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:
187, 196, 342, 343, 397 and 398; (2) sequences having at least about 50% identity to a
20 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 342, 343, 397 and 398 as measured by the computer
algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

11. A method for inhibiting the growth of cancer cells in a patient, comprising
administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the
25 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid
sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:
187, 196, 342, 343, 397 and 398; and (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a
30 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 342, 343, 397, and 398, as measured by the computer
algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

13. A method for modulating angiogenesis in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

5

14. A method of claim 13, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 342, 343, 397 and 398; and (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 342, 343, 397 and 398 as measured by the computer
10 algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

15. A method for inhibiting angiogenesis and vascularization of tumors in a patient, comprising administering to a patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

15

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 342, 343, 397, and 398; and (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 340, 342-346, 397, and 398, as measured by the
20 computer algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

17. A method for modulating skin inflammation in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the
25 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 338 and 347; and (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID
30 NO: 338 and 347 as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

19. A method for stimulating the growth of epithelial cells in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

5

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 129 and 348; and (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 129 and 348 as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

10

21. A method for inhibiting the binding of HIV-1 to leukocytes in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

15

22. A method of claim 21, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 340, 344, 345 and 346; (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 340, 344, 345 and 346 as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

20

23. A method for treating an inflammatory disease in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

25

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 340, 344, 345 and 346; and (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 340, 344, 345 and 346 as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

30

25. A method for treating cancer in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

5 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 340, 344, 345 and 346; and (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 340, 344, 345 and 346 as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

10

27. A method for treating neurological disease in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of claim 4.

15 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) a sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 340, 342-346, and 395; and (2) sequences having at least 50% identity to a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 187, 196, 340, 342-346, and 395, as measured by the computer algorithm BLASTP, using the running parameters and identity test defined above.

20

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